

Safe Sharps Disposal



Handling Used and Discarded Needles and Syringes

What to do if you find a needle or syringes in a public place

You can phone the council to collect the needle or syringes – the phone numbers are at the bottom of this brochure.

or

You may choose to dispose of it yourself. If you do, it is important to follow the steps outlined here.

To safely dispose of a discarded needle or syringe

- Stay calm
- Do not touch the needle or syringes with your hands. Do not try to recap the needle
- Obtain the required equipment, which includes rubber gloves or tongs, a strong puncture proof plastic container with a screw top lid, or an approved sharps container.



- Place the container with the lid off on the ground near the syringe.
- Use gloved hand or tongs to pick up the needle and syringes by the barrel at the end away from the needle.
- Place the needle or syringe sharp end first into the container. Do not hold the container while you do this. Replace the container lid and seal tightly.
- Take the container to a needle and syringe disposal site. Locations are listed below.

If you injure yourself with a used needle

- Wash with running water and soap as soon as possible
- Apply a sterile waterproof dressing such as a bandaid
- Seek medical advice from your doctor, local health centre, hospital or Centre for Disease Control
- Follow the safe disposal instructions above and take the needle or syringe with you to the doctor.



Needle and Syringe Programs (NSPs) in the Northern Territory

NSPs have been established to help reduce the spread of blood-borne viruses such as hepatitis B, hepatitis C and HIV among people who inject drugs.

Safe disposal in appropriate containers and the return of used injecting equipment is promoted through the NSPs. Sometimes, however used needles and syringes are discarded in public places. This can cause a sense of fear for people in the community who find them.

The risk of catching a blood-borne virus by accidentally pricking yourself with a used needle (needle stick injury) is extremely low.

Council Phone Numbers

Darwin City Council	8982 2616
Palmerston City Council	8935 9922
Katherine Town Council	8972 1322
Alice Springs Town Council	8950 0500
Tennant Creek Town Council	8962 0000
Nhulunbuy Corporation	8987 1933

Needle and Syringe Disposal Sites

Darwin

NPS	8941 1711
NTAHC, 46 Woods Street (24 hour disposal unit located at the side of the building)	
Royal Darwin Hospital	8922 8888
Rocklands Drive, Tiwi	
Clinic 34	8999 2678
87 Mitchell Street	

Palmerston

NSP	8931 3675
Mon, Wed Fri 10.30am – 4.40pm	
Corner Temple Terrace and Roystonea Avenue	

Katherine

CDC/Clinic 34 NSP	8973 9049
Katherine Hospital	8973 9211

Tennant Creek

CDC/Clinic 34 NSP	8962 4250
Tennant Creek Hospital	8962 4399

Nhulunbuy

CDC/Clinic 34 NSP	8987 0354
Gove District Hospital	8987 0211

Alice Springs

CDC/Clinic 34 NSP	8951 7549
Alice Springs Hospital	8951 7777
NTAHC, 14 Railway Terrace	8953 3172

